

How did the questionnaire change in the Current Population Survey affect health insurance estimates?

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Overview

Background

Objectives

Data

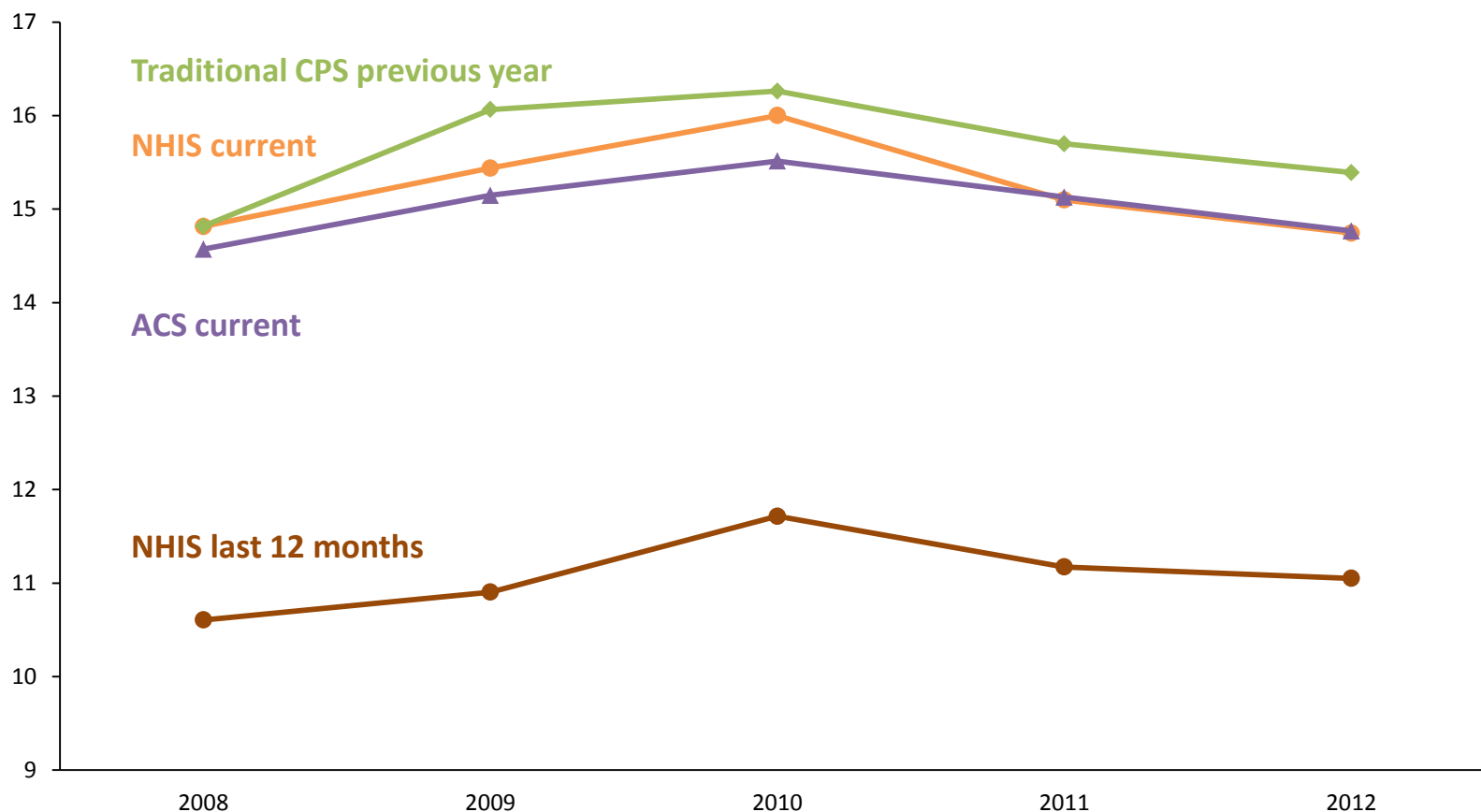
Methods

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Discussion

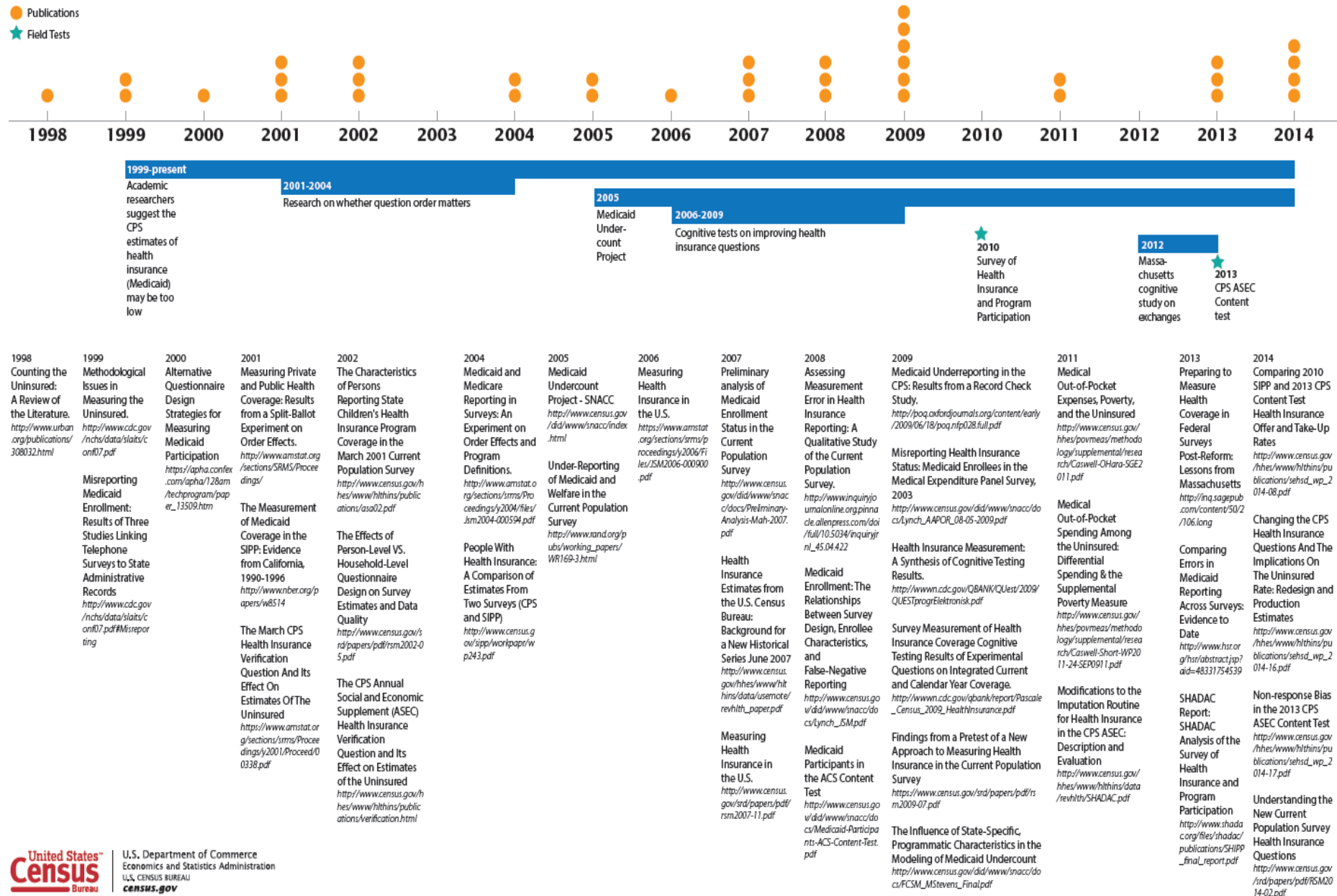
Uninsured Rates: CPS, ACS, NHIS: 2008 to 2012



Source: 2008-2013 1-Year American Community Surveys (ACS); 2009 to 2014 Current Population Survey Annual Social and Economic Supplements (CPS ASEC); 2008 to 2013 National Health Interview Surveys (NHIS).

Improving Health Insurance Coverage Measurement: 1998-2014

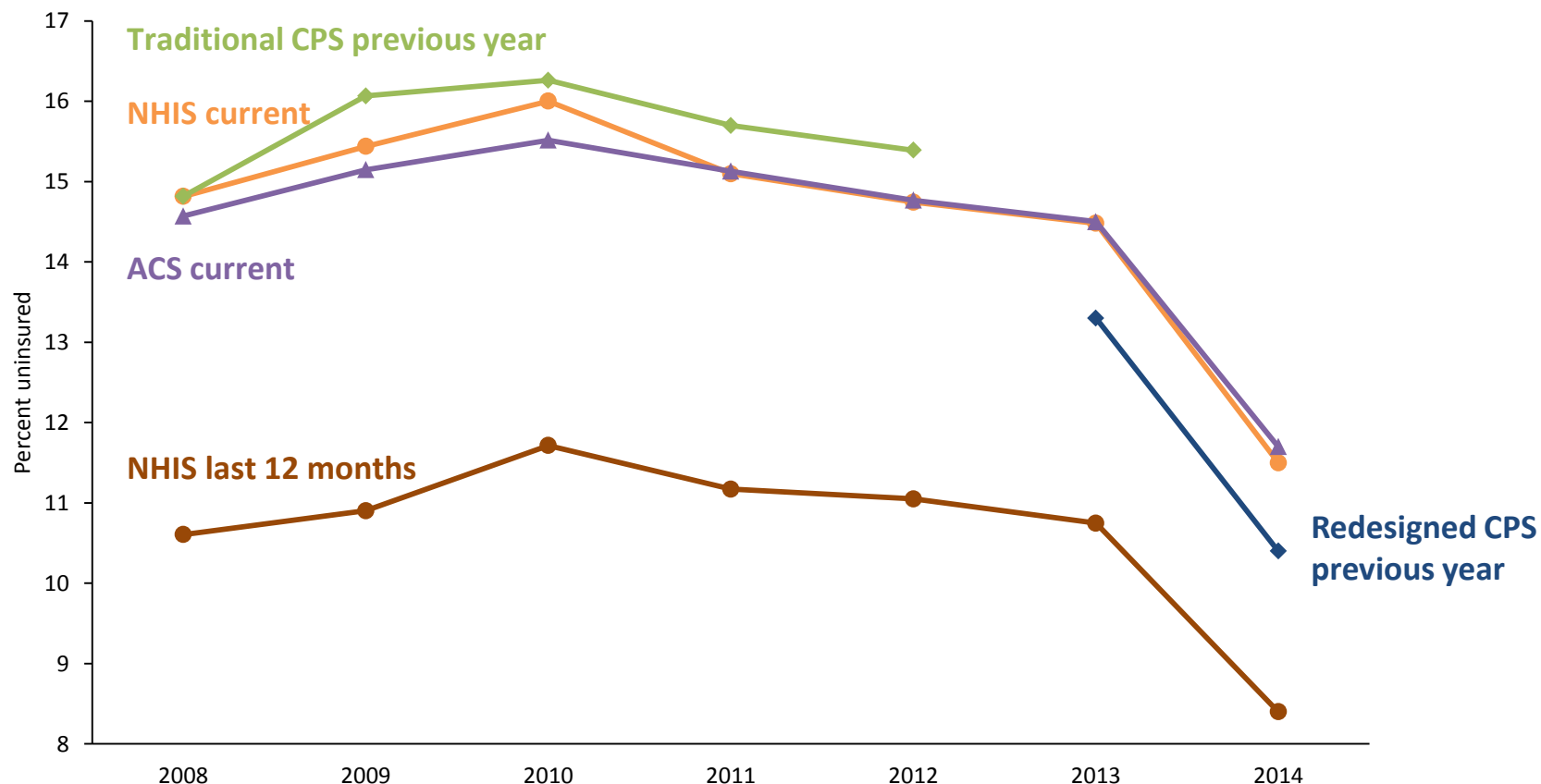
A history of research and testing



Health insurance questions

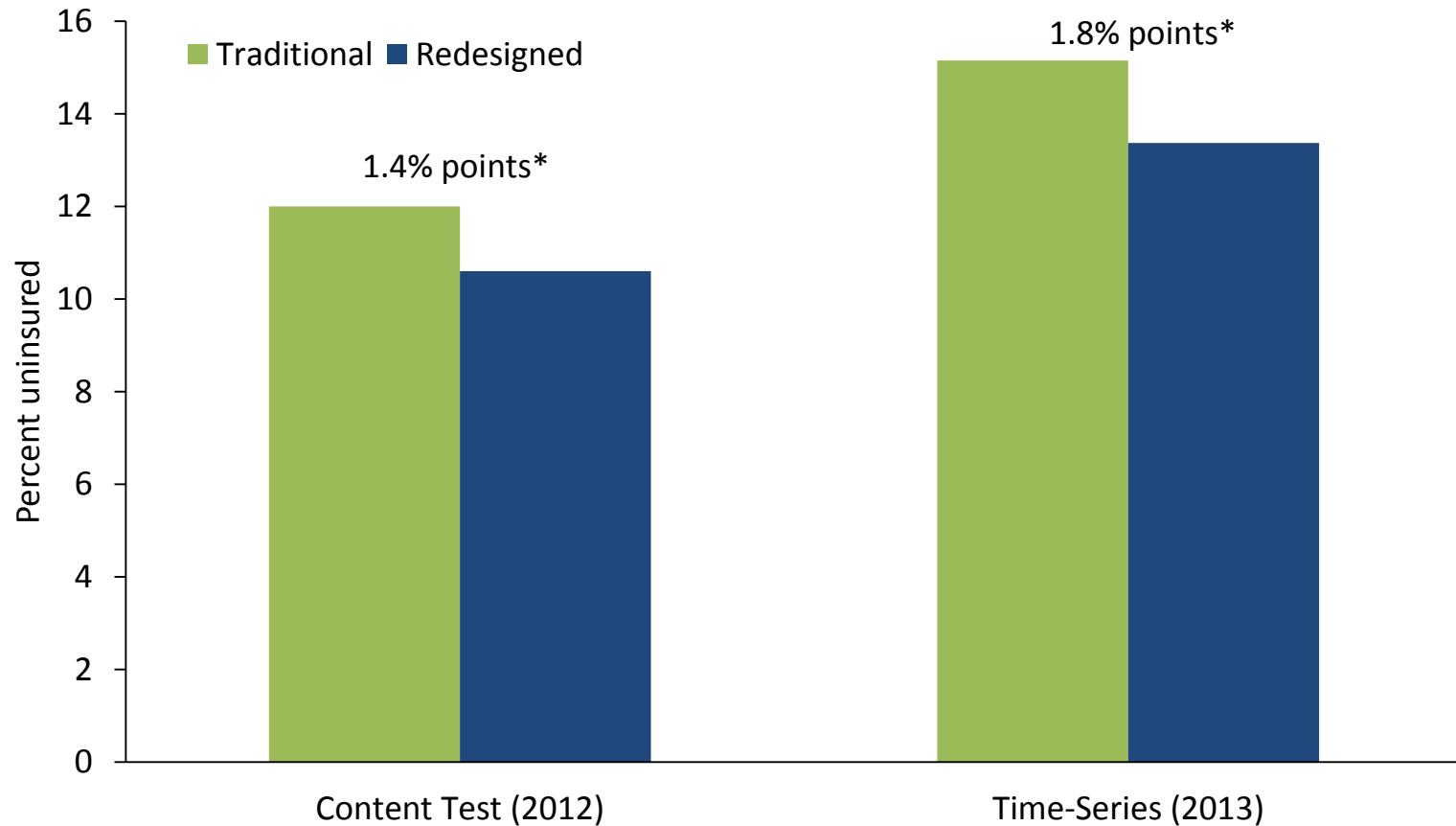
	Redesigned	Traditional
Reference period	Starts with current and then goes back to previous calendar year	Only asks about previous calendar year
Types of coverage	Starts with general question and then gets more specific	Laundry-list style questions
How questions are asked	Collected by person Also asks if others in household were covered by plan	Collected at the household level
New content	Marketplace participation Employer-sponsored insurance offers and take-up Revised Medical Out-Of-Pocket expenses	n/a

Uninsured Rates: CPS, ACS, NHIS: 2008 to 2014



Source: 2008-2013 1-Year American Community Surveys (ACS); 2009 to 2014 Current Population Survey Annual Social and Economic Supplements (CPS ASEC); 2008 to 2013 National Health Interview Surveys (NHIS).

Uninsured rate using traditional and redesigned questions in previous research



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* Statistically significant at $p < 0.1$

What is Parallel?

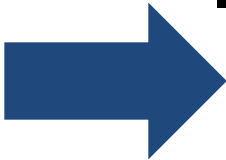
- In 2015, Parallel Survey included traditional questions for both health insurance and income
- Replicates production environment
- Preliminary results
 - Recently processed
 - Subject to change based on further analysis

Why Parallel?

According to Public Law 113-235 Dec. 16, 2014, the budget for the Census Bureau stated:

That the Bureau of the Census shall collect data for the Annual Social and Economic Supplement to the Current Population Survey using the same health insurance questions included in previous years, in addition to the revised questions implemented in the Current Population Survey beginning in February 2014.

Objectives

- 
- **Questionnaire Change:** Estimate effect of the questionnaire change on health insurance estimates (in 2014)
 - **Year-to-Year Change:** Evaluate year-to-year change in the uninsured rate

Data

	CPS ASEC	Parallel
Data collection period	Feb-April 2015	March and April 2015
Health insurance questions	Redesigned questions	Traditional questions
Income questions	Redesigned questions	Traditional questions
Sample design	2010 and 2000	2000
Sampling frame	Standard	83% retired sample; 17% reserve sample
Sample (addresses)	99,500	28,000
Reachable households	74,257	25,896
Dropout before health insurance	23,344 (27.6%)	7,921 (30.6%)
Mode	87.1% in person 12.9% telephone centers	65.9% in person 34.1% telephone centers

Source: 2015 Current Population Survey Annual Social and Economic Supplement (CPS ASEC) and 2015 Parallel Survey

Uninsured rate by survey

	CPS ASEC	Parallel
Uninsured rate, all ages	10.4	10.6

Source: 2015 Current Population Survey Annual Social and Economic Supplement (CPS ASEC) and 2015 Parallel Survey

Uninsured rate by mode

	CPS ASEC	Parallel
Total	10.4	10.6
In person	11.0	12.0
Telephone centers	6.3	7.7

Source: 2015 Current Population Survey Annual Social and Economic Supplement (CPS ASEC) and 2015 Parallel Survey

Methods

- Calibrate samples: give the Parallel the distribution of characteristics in CPS ASEC
 - Survey mode (in person or telephone center)
 - ROAST (Race, Origin, Age, Sex, Tenure)
- Use person weights for both surveys
- Replicate weights for statistical significance

Note: Current Population Survey Annual Social and Economic Supplement (CPS ASEC)

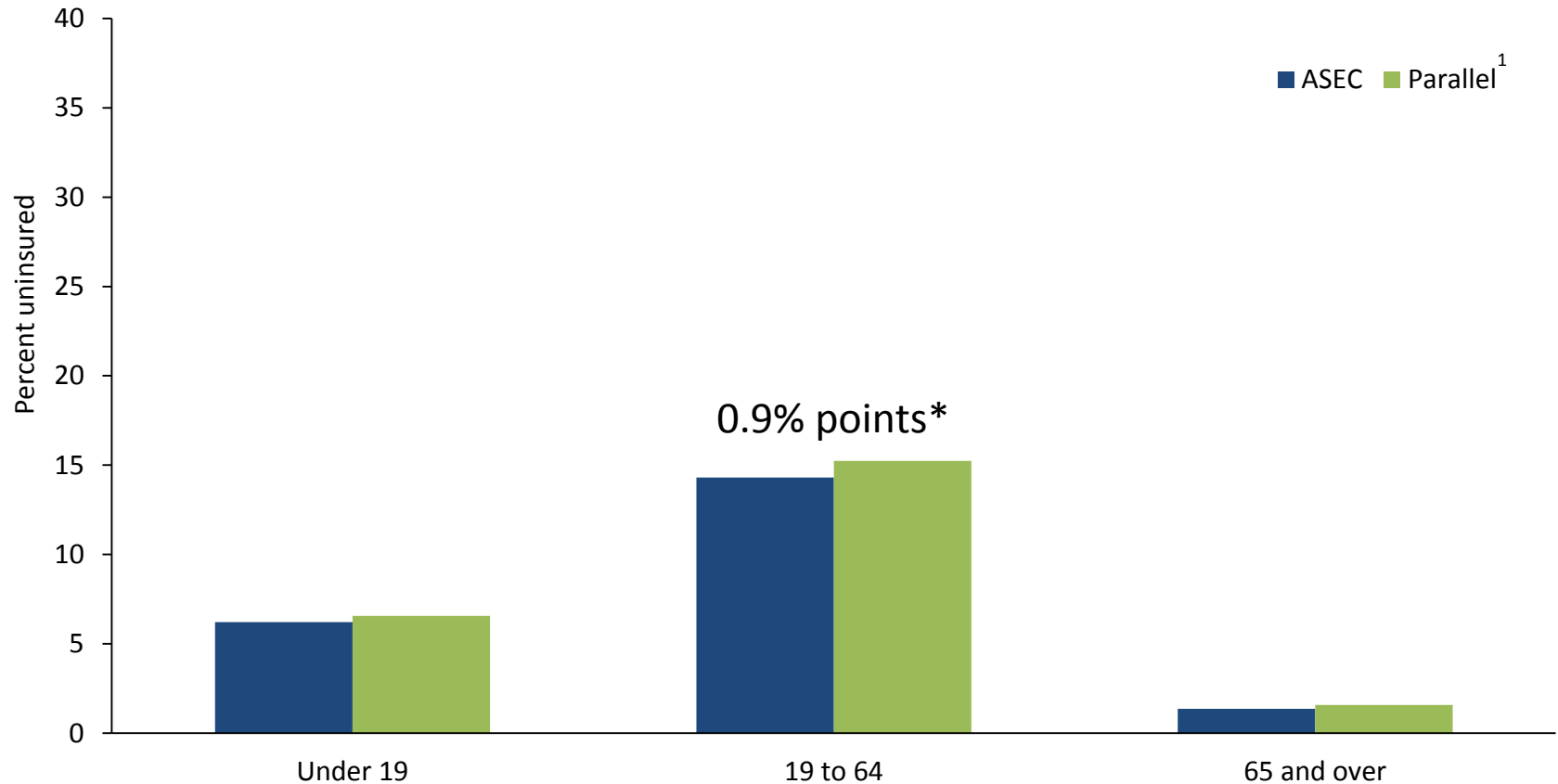
Findings

	CPS ASEC	Parallel ¹	Difference
Uninsured rate, all ages	10.4	11.1	0.7*

Source: 2015 Current Population Survey Annual Social and Economic Supplement (CPS ASEC) and 2015 Parallel Survey
Parallel¹: data have been calibrated to the CPS ASEC by mode and ROAST (Race, Hispanic Origin, Age, Sex and Tenure)

* Statistically significant at $p < 0.1$

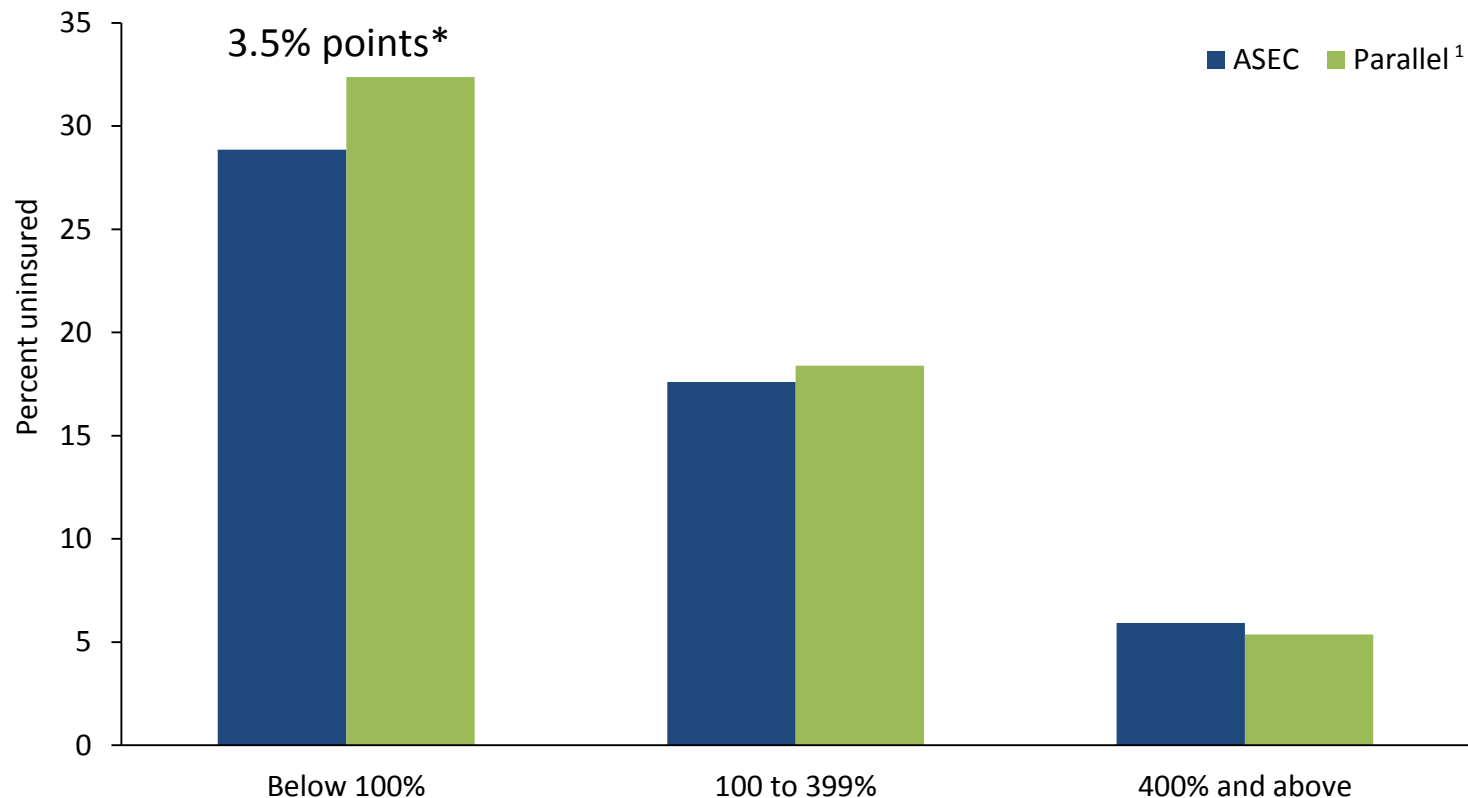
Uninsured by age



Source: 2015 Current Population Survey Annual Social and Economic Supplement (CPS ASEC) and 2015 Parallel Survey
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Uninsured by Income-to-Poverty Ratio (IPR): 19 to 64

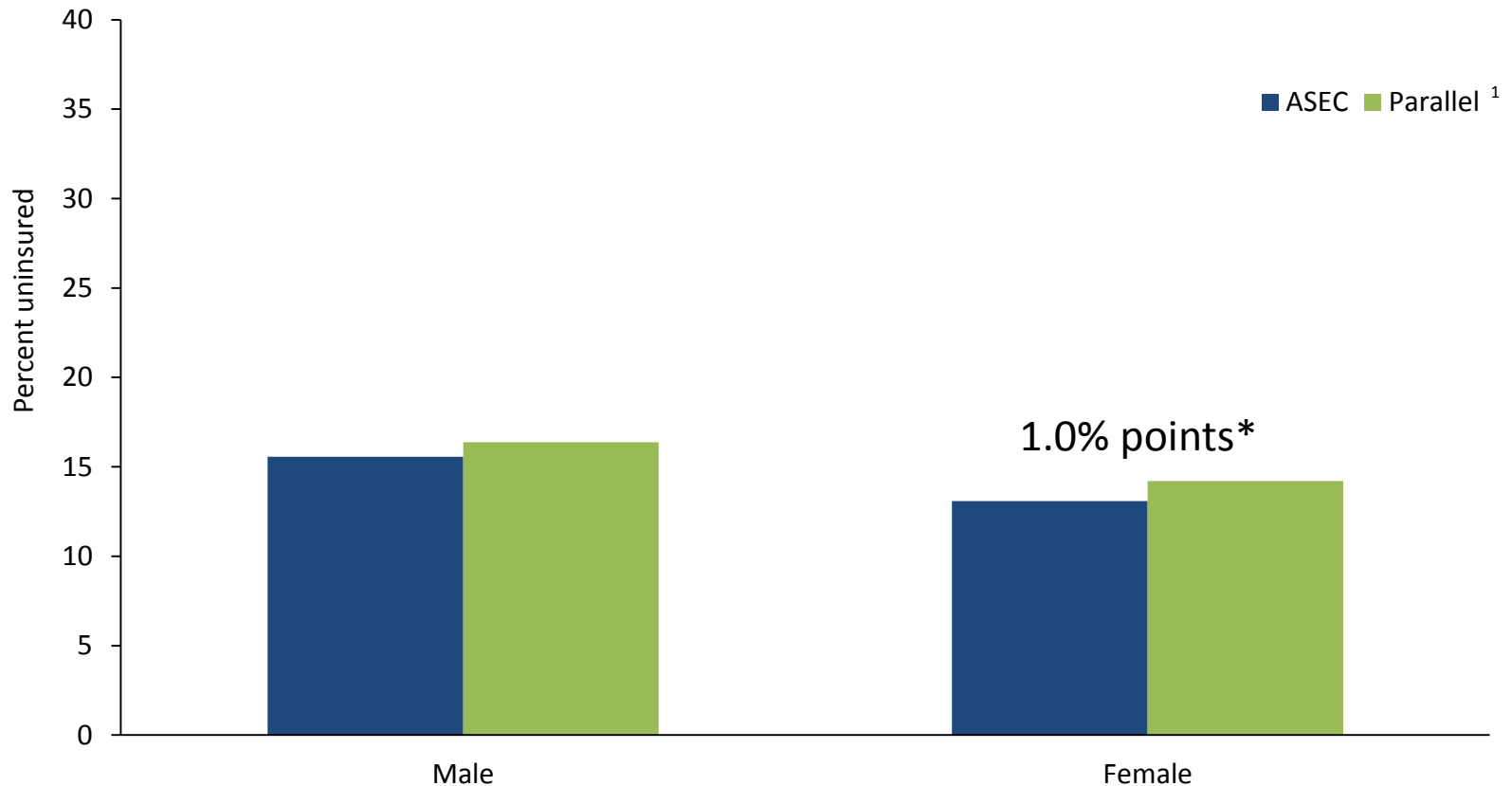


Source: 2015 Current Population Survey Annual Social and Economic Supplement (CPS ASEC) and 2015 Parallel Survey

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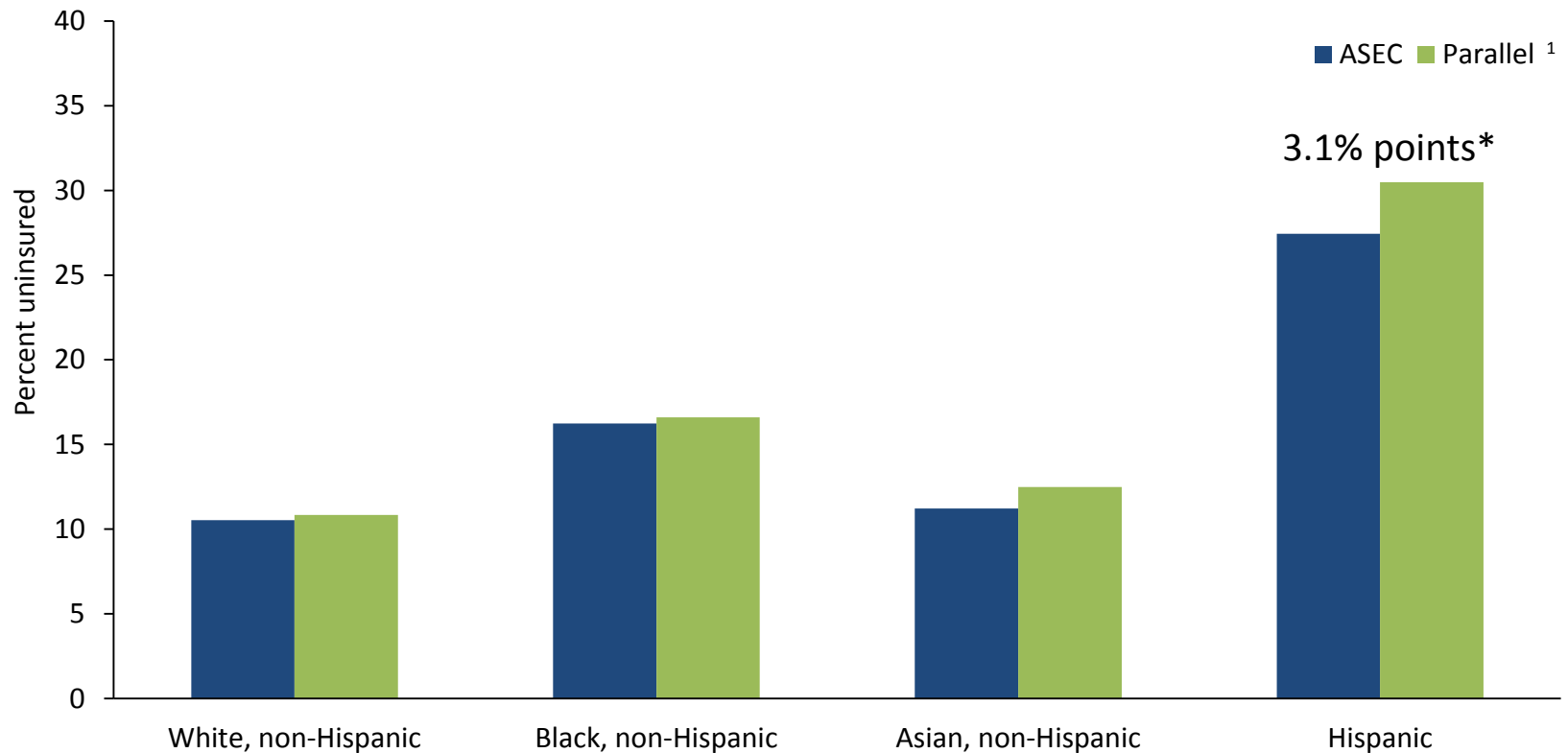
Uninsured by sex: 19 to 64



Source: 2015 Current Population Survey Annual Social and Economic Supplement (CPS ASEC) and 2015 Parallel Survey
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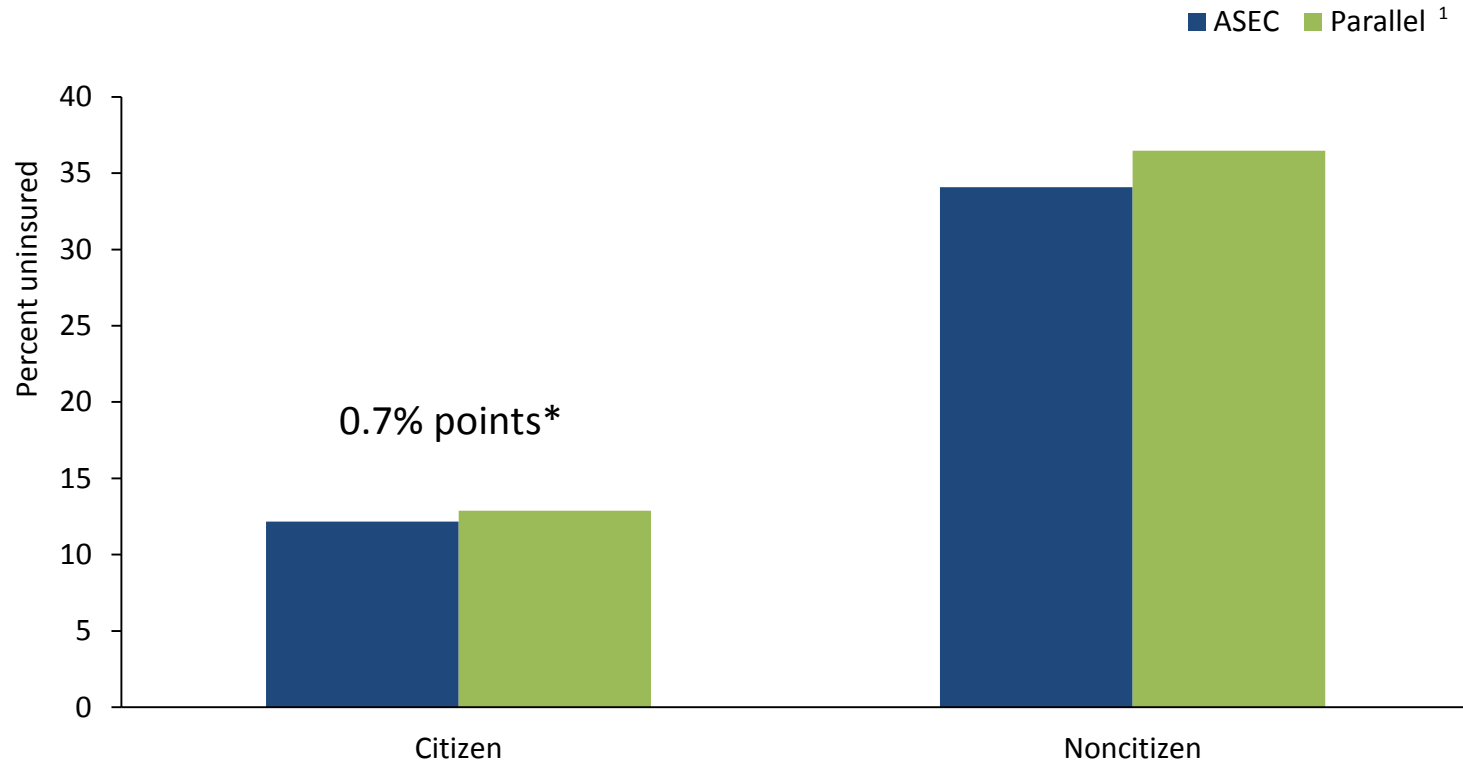
Uninsured by race and Hispanic origin: 19 to 64



Source: 2015 Current Population Survey Annual Social and Economic Supplement (CPS ASEC) and 2015 Parallel Survey
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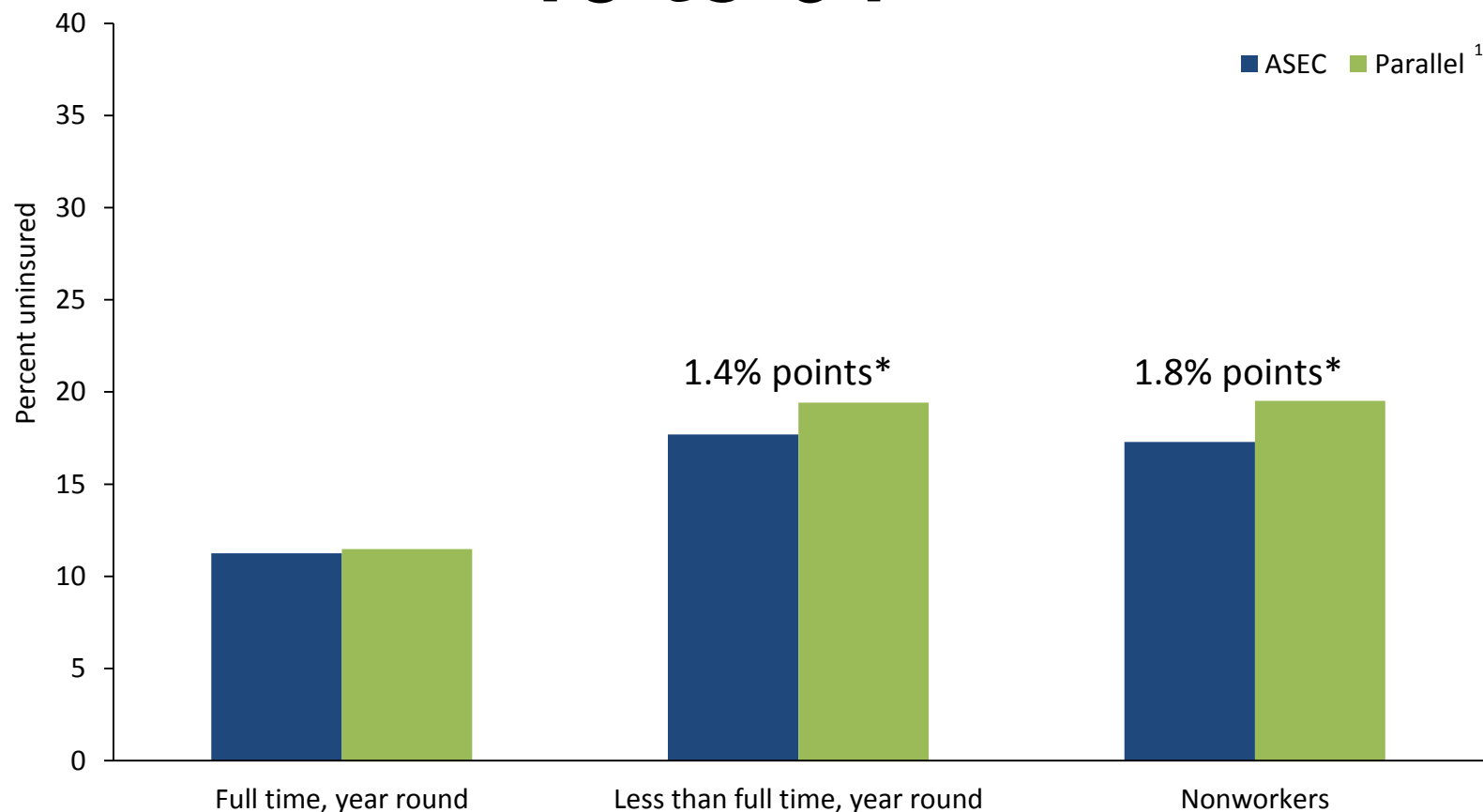
Uninsured by nativity: 19 to 64



Source: 2015 Current Population Survey Annual Social and Economic Supplement (CPS ASEC) and 2015 Parallel Survey
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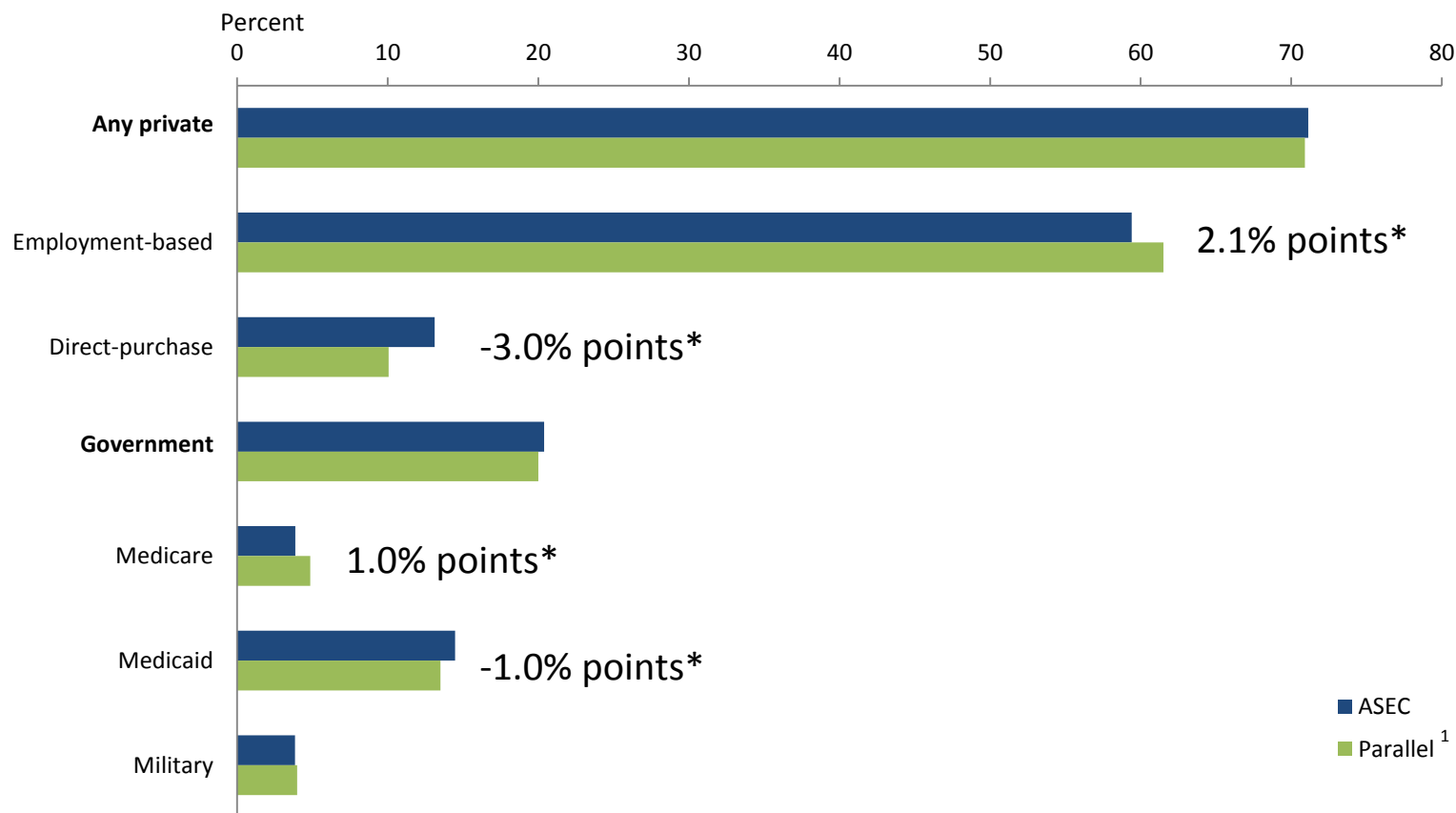
Uninsured by work status: 19 to 64



Source: 2015 Current Population Survey Annual Social and Economic Supplement (CPS ASEC) and 2015 Parallel Survey Parallel¹: data have been calibrated to the CPS ASEC by mode and ROAST (Race, Hispanic Origin, Age, Sex and Tenure)

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Health insurance types: 19 to 64



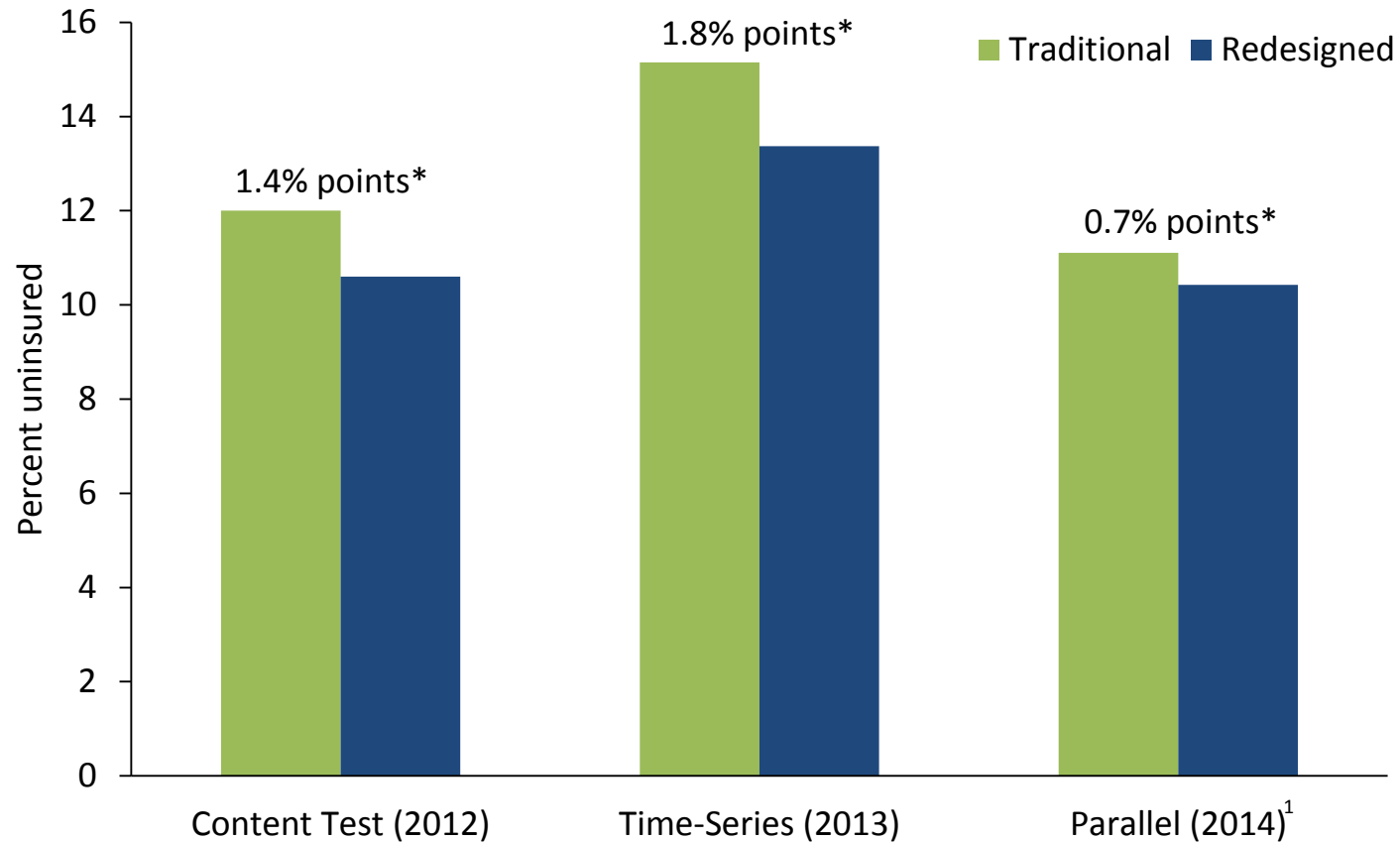
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Conclusion

- Before calibration, no difference in uninsured rate
- After calibration, the uninsured rate was higher in Parallel¹ than in CPS ASEC
- Uninsured rate was higher in Parallel¹ for working-age population, and for subgroups:
 - Hispanics, people in poverty, those working less than full time, year round, nonworkers, and citizens
- Parallel¹ had a lower rate of direct-purchase and Medicaid than CPS ASEC, while Parallel¹ had a higher rate of employment-based and Medicare

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Discussion

- What can explain? Same survey instrument, but there are other differences
 - Sampling frame and sample design, survey mode
 - Affordable Care Act:
 - Could differentially affect surveys
 - Awareness of health insurance
 - Unobserved heterogeneity

Thank you!

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